

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Claims 19-22 are pending in the application, with claims 19 and 20 being the independent claims. Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

In the Office Action, claims 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hodge, U.S. Patent No. 4,285,064 (Hodge). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hodge does not teach or suggest each and every element of Applicants' independent claims 19 and 20. Hodge relates to a TDMA satellite communications system that provides for a simple control procedure for permitting multiple computers to establish peer coupled transmission paths through a broadcast satellite channel. (Hodge, Abstract). Logical transmission circuits are sequentially established and then disconnected in order to provide total network connectivity of any terminal connected to the network. (Hodge, col. 3, lines 4-8)

Hodge does not teach or suggest "determining an allocation scheme of said channel to each of a plurality of transceivers, and transmitting said allocation scheme to said transceivers," as recited in independent claim 19.

Hodge describes the establishment of logical links, each including time segments in which bursts of data are sent. These bursts of data may be of variable length. FIG. 3A of Hodge illustrates a plurality of bursts ( $S_iB_{P_j}$  and  $P_jB_{S_i}$ ) all of the same length. However, Hodge does not teach or suggest "a channel format of periodic blocks of

constant length each occupied by either one long burst or an integral number of short bursts of equal length,” as recited in independent claim 19.

Hodge further describes that the bursts include a variable number of variable length HDLC information frames. (Hodge, col. 4, lines 31-32). Hodge, however, does not teach or suggest “the division of each block into either one long burst or a number of short bursts is determined flexibly,” as recited in independent claim 19.

Furthermore, Hodge does not teach or suggest a "wireless link signal having a format including periodic blocks of constant length each occupied by either one long burst or an integral number of short bursts of equal length , whereby the division of each block into either one long burst or a number of short bursts is determined flexibly," as recited in independent claim 20.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 19 and 20 are patentable over Hodge. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hodge in view of Grayson, et al, U.S. Publication No. 2002/0028788 (Grayson). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 21 depends from claim 19 and claim 22 depends from claim 20. Grayson does not overcome all the deficiencies relative to independent claims 19 and 20. For at least these reasons and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 21 and 22 are patentable over the combination of Hodge and Grayson.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 1/5/07

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